

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Hideo AKIMOTO, et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Group:

Filed: Concurrently

Examiner:

FOR: FOAMED ARTICLE OF THERMOPLASTIC RESIN COMPOSITION AND
PROCESS FOR PRODUCING IT

Date: November 19, 2001

The Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the herewith filed
application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel claims 3-11 in their entirety and without
prejudice.

Please enter the following new claims:

--12. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the recession of
the movable mold element subsequent to the secondary injection

step begins within 5 seconds from the termination of the secondary injection step.

13. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the recession of the movable mold element subsequent to the secondary injection step begins within 5 seconds from the termination of the secondary injection step.

14. (New) The process of claim 1, further comprising compressing the foamed article by pressing the movable mold element onto the foamed article within 60 seconds from the termination of the foaming step.

15. (New) The process of claim 13, further comprising compressing the foamed article by pressing the movable mold element onto the foamed article within 60 seconds from the termination of the foaming step.

16. (New) The process of claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition comprises a polyolefin resin and a foaming agent.

17. (New) The process of claim 15, wherein the thermoplastic resin composition comprises a polyolefin resin and a foaming agent.

18. (New) The process of claim 16 wherein the polyolefin resin is a polypropylene resin.

19. (New) The process of claim 17 wherein the polyolefin resin is a polypropylene resin.

20. (New) The process of claim 16, wherein the polyolefin resin has a melt flow rate, determined according to ASTM D 1238

at 230°C under a load of 2.16kg, in the range of from 30 to 200 g/10 min.

21. (New) The process of claim 17, wherein the polyolefin resin has a melt flow rate, determined according to ASTM D 1238 at 230°C under a load of 2.16kg, in the range of from 30 to 200 g/10 min.

22. (New) A foamed article of a thermoplastic resin composition produced by the process of claim 1.

23. (New) A foamed article of a thermoplastic resin composition produced by the process of claim 17.

24. (New) The foamed article of claim 22, having a solid skin layer with a thickness in the range of from 0.1 to 0.7 mm.

25. (New) The foamed article of claim 23, having a solid skin layer with a thickness in the range of from 0.1 to 0.7 mm.

26. (New) The foamed article of claim 22, having a foaming expansion ratio in the range of from 1.05 to 5 times the non-expanded original volume.

27. (New) The foamed article of claim 23, having a foaming expansion ratio in the range of from 1.05 to 5 times the non-expanded original volume.

28. (New) The foamed article of claim 24, having a foaming expansion ratio in the range of from 1.05 to 5 times the non-expanded original volume.

29. (New) The foamed article of claim 25, having a foaming expansion ratio in the range of from 1.05 to 5 times the non-expanded original volume.

30. (New) Automotive parts as foamed articles produced by the process of claim 1.

31. (New) Automotive parts as foamed articles produced by the process of claim 21.

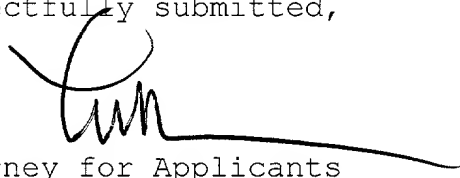
REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments prior to examination of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 3-11 have been cancelled to eliminate improper multiple dependent claims and to eliminate the extra multiple dependent claim fee. New claims 12-31 corresponding to the cancelled claims presented in single dependent form have been added. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, and 12-31 are pending in this application.

No new matter has been added and applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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